

# State Affairs

(Continued)

ped Governor Young's time last week.

He dashed to Woodland, Yolo County, spoke before the Woodland P. T. A. Topic: "Reorganization of State Government."

He ordered a state-wide investigation of the ages of girls employed as usherettes in theaters, in regard to labor law violations by employers.

## The Government

### Luxury Tax

The expense of the public school system is becoming a heavy burden on the local taxpayer; it is the largest item of local governmental expense, frequently requiring as high as 65 per cent of the taxes raised locally. Recently the State Board of Equalization. For many a month the board has been seeking methods by which the school tax burden could be lessened, by which the burden could be shifted to other fields not now taxed by the State.

Last week the Board of Equalization, through Secretary Dixwell L. Pierce, announced that within four months it would have completed plans for relieving the school tax burden. That its proposed relief measure would slash local educational tax requirements in California by at least \$20,000,000, that Southern California counties, generally, would benefit by a reduction of approximately 25 per cent.

The proposed relief: A moderate luxury tax on cigars, cigarettes, face powder, rouge, lip-stick, sporting goods, other articles in the non-essential class. No burden on any class of non-essential, the tax levy in each instance will be small, will be used only for the raising of money for schools.

To make doubly sure that the new luxury tax would result in lowered local school taxes, rather than merely giving county boards of supervisors additional revenues, the State Board of Equalization will propose to the Legislative Tax Committee that a "control" be placed on boards of supervisors.

Under the control plan, Secretary Pierce declared, the board would be required to reduce their local school levies in direct proportion to the amount received under the State's luxury tax.

Said Secretary Pierce: "Such a sales tax (on luxuries) would be very fair to the taxpayer, would reduce the burden of our school system and if it were generally understood that the proceeds of the tax could be spent for nothing else but schools and that for every dollar thus raised there would be a corresponding reduction of the burden on general property, we believe the plan would meet with the same enthusiastic response from the public as has been accorded the gasoline tax (News Review, Oct. 14-20)."

"The simple truth is that our schools, desirable as they are, are costing so much money that our ability to pay for them out of the usual ad valorem taxes has become inadequate, so that some scheme must be devised to relieve the overburdened local taxpayer."

## Farm Promotion

Last September, from the office of State Director of Agriculture G. H. Hecke, came an unexpected announcement that the promotion of new markets, co-operative agencies, and support of the crop reporting service had all been dropped as activities of the Department of Agriculture. But they were not to be dropped entirely. Instead they were to be taken over by the newly created Division of Commerce, a part of the Department of Finance. (News Review, Sept. 16-23).

Last week, after many an applicant for the chairmanship of the new Division of Commerce had been considered, examined, among whom were J. P. Marins, San Mateo, William Mitchell, Vallejo, former State Senator Bills, and several other men in Federal service, the position was awarded by Governor Young to Charles E. Bowen, Los Angeles investment banker.

Thus Bowen will have charge of machinery with which the California government will seek to find or create new markets for agricultural or manufactured products. For expenses for the first 31 activities of the bureau, \$75,000 has been allocated.

Many an observer at the Capitol was surprised last week at the news of Bowen's appointment. Rumor spreaders had predicted last month that E. L. Sisson, former Colusa, Glenn and Tehama counties Assemblyman would head the division. But he was no serious contender for the position.

## Stormy Petrel

Armed with powers to map California's agricultural policies, to advise the State Department of Agriculture in its work, the State Farm Board—stormy petrel of the 1929 Legislature—has been the center of a hectic all-summer contest by a group of nearly 100 aspirants, backed by at least a dozen farm groups. The contest was last week that the contest soon was to come to an end, that Governor Young had practically completed the selection of the board's personnel, that the Governor would make public his appointments within the next fortnight.

Of the nine members of the board, no more than one may be selected from any one congressional district, nor more than one from any county or any branch of agriculture, the law declares. To represent Southern California congressional districts, the following names were last week suggested as possible Young appointees:

7th District. To represent the 7th District, (including only Kern of the southern counties) the candidates for board positions are: George Bare, of Modesto; Ward B. Minturn, of Fresno; Curtis Lindley, of Modesto. Who, one of the three will win is still doubtful as political observers say Governor Young has no particular man in mind.

8th District. A. C. Hardison of Santa Paula, past president of the California State Farm Bureau Federation, to represent the 8th Congressional District, but has competition for the place from V. T. McCurdy, San Jose pear grower, and A. R. Patrick, Salinas dairyman.

9th and 10th Districts. Los Angeles County, which embraces districts nine and ten, will have one representative in the person of either Hubbard Russell, cattleman, or Merritt H. Adamson, dairyman.

11th District. This vast district, comprising of Mono, Inyo, San Bernardino, Orange, Riverside, San Diego and Imperial counties, will probably be represented by A. B. Miller, of Fontana Farms, San Bernardino County. Others considered by the Governor in this district: C. Jones of Etiwanda, brother to Assemblyman Isaac Jones; C. D. Hamilton, Riverside almond grower.

The ninth member—and probably chairman of the board—will be A. J. Jones, San Diego, who is also chairman of the State Fair Board (News Review, Sept. 9-15).

## Farm Rumblings

Rumblings of internal strife within the California State Farm Bureau Federation, predicated on policies of the federation and allegations that its steering committee organization has been in recent years, reached the State Capitol last week.

Statehouse reports, which attached some political significance to the projected shake-up, indicated prospects of an open class for control between opposing groups when the federation holds its annual meeting in Fresno during the first week of November. Controversy over selection of the personnel of the new State Farm Board (see above) was also said to enter into the federation shake-up, with possibility that the federation's attitude toward the farm board would become an issue on the convention floor.

Rumors, reports, predictions gathered by the United Press, the Associated Press, and the Capitol News Bureau, last week indicated that with A. Ahlf of Colusa, president of the farm Bureau Federation, apparently slated for retirement, a three cornered fight for the presidency was already underway. The fight: 1) R. W. Blackburn, Coachella Valley farmer, with a strong coterie reported backing him in the race; 2) W. A. Johnston, Los Angeles citrus grower and State Civil Service Commissioner, though not a candidate, may be importuned to become an aspirant. Johnson was reported to be demanding "more business in agriculture" and a new vigorous farm program. 3) Should opposing factions deadlock and the federation be forced to agree on a neutral leader, then Ray Miller, president of the State League of County farm bureaus, would be the "dark horse."

## Dam Inspection Suit

The large number of dams, other water projects in California makes for busy activity in the State Engineer's office. A new law (News Review, Aug. 19-25) requiring the State Engineer's department to in-

spect all dams and to pass on all prospective projects, increased still more the work of that department.

Last week, State Engineer Edward Hyatt, Jr., and State Supervisor of Dam Construction George Hawley (News Review, Oct. 14-20) monies to combat the flycatcher activity for an action to test the constitutionality of the new State dam inspection law was started. Filed in the Third District Court of Appeals at Sacramento was a petition for a writ of mandamus against the City of Stockton. Reason: When Stockton decided to build the Calaveras River flood control project, Stockton engineers drew up plans, gave the contract to the Bent Brothers, Inc., who began work at once. Meanwhile State Engineer Hyatt reviewed the plans, but refused to approve them. Therefore Stockton modified the plans to suit Hyatt, at the same time increasing the cost of the project.

When Bent Brothers presented their bill for the job to the Stockton City Auditor, they received a check for the amount specified in the original contract, based on the original but disapproved plans, and not on the new plans which had projected \$70,724 to the cost of the project. Thereupon Bent Brothers for a writ of mandamus Bent Brothers were attempting "last week to collect the \$70,724, the extra amount not included in the first contract, basing their claim upon changed the plans after work had been let, after work had begun.

## Political Notes

### Meek's Largess

Great & good political friend of Governor Young is Director of Public Works Bert B. Meek. Last week, Homer Roberts, bureau chief for the United Press at the State capital, while performing his duties as a newsman, visited Great & Good Friend Meek; returned to his office, to his typewriter, wrote and released the following story:

"Director Meek . . . told some one the other day that he would personally finance ex-governor Friend W. Richardson if he cared to run against Governor Young at the 1930 election. . . . Of course this was designed as a hint that in case Governor Young determined to run, there was no one he could beat more easily than Richardson."

When Newsman Roberts story had clattered over the telegraph wires to the United Press' Los Angeles office, bureau manager George Beall, able reporter, sought the other side of the story. He telephoned former Governor Richardson at Los Angeles' Hayward Hotel, quer: "Is the former governor concerning Meek's largess. Soon the telegraph machines in the Sacramento bureau of the United Press were cluck-clucking with Governor Richardson's reply.

The Governor's answer: "Next time I see Bert I'm going to tell him I'll take him up on that proposition. . . . I know what he meant all right, but I'm willing to be the opposition—and maybe it's Bert's" put out just the way Bert thinks."

### Put & Take

Marriage may be a lottery, but search of records at Sacramento last week failed to reveal it a mutual insurance association. That was the declaration of Deputy Secretary of State Charles Hagarty as he pleaded ignorance of information requested by Paul Walthar, Caldwell, Tex. finance.

Finance Walthar asked the Secretary of State for the names of companies in California which furnish policies to prospective brides and grooms and which are payable upon marriage. It's a sort of matrimonial mutual insurance association plan," he confided. Deputy Hagarty wrote the Texan thus: "Marriage is mutual, but there's no insurance written on it in California. . . . It's a put and take, an out and out gamble, and our insurance laws do not sanction chance-taking of any kind."

### Hecke Departs

Beside being State Director of Agriculture, G. H. Hecke is also president of the National Association of Agricultural Commissioners and Secretaries, an important, significant position.

It was in the latter capacity that Hecke departed from Sacramento last week for Washington. There he conferred with President Hoover, Secretary of Agriculture Hyde, and among others, California Congressmen, Califor-

nia's Senators Johnson and Shortridge.

Hyde's purpose: to lead a fight for Congressional appropriations to continue the eradication campaign against the Mediterranean fruit fly in Florida, obtain additional monies to combat the fly in other territories, once it should become prevalent there.

## Prohibition

### Anent Wine Tonics

Heated have arguments waged during the past month since Southern California cities began to denounce the manufacture and sale of what is known as wine tonics, the country's youth was being endangered, to demand more stringent regulations to lessen manufacture, to decrease sales. (News Review, Sept. 23-29, et seq.)

Last week went into effect the new Federal ruling, which declared that 30 per cent solid material must be used in the manufacture of future "wine tonics," as contrasted with the present beverages which contain only 10 or 12 per cent of solids.

Such materials as salt, sugar, beef protein, glycerol-phosphate, other ingredients are classified as solids. They must not be added in such a way as to sink to the bottom, permitting the "top" to be siphoned off, but must be combined with the liquid materials as to form a 30 per cent solid insoluble compound. No loss of medicinal value will result from this ruling; if anything, an increase will be occasioned. But the "wine tonics" will lose their significance as alcoholic beverages; will be "thick as syrup," difficult to gulp down in quantities.

Last week the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors headed resolution against wine tonics passed by the W. C. P. U., many churches, other organizations. They adopted an ordinance permitting only licensed pharmacists to sell wine and other alcoholic beverages, limited purchasable quantities to one ounce, bottled within a period of three days, prohibited any sales to minors.

San Bernardino's wine tonic opponents did not rejoice overmuch at the Supervisors' action; urged more stringent regulations. Despite an insistent request that manufacture as well as sale be prohibited, the Supervisors refused to take further action; replied they could not endanger the \$10,000,000 invested in vineyards and plants in San Bernardino County.

Pomona's City Council last week officially entered the anti-wine tonic campaign when it authorized City Attorney J. A. Allard to determine how public sales might legally be eliminated. Pomona has evidenced much interest in San Bernardino County's efforts to lessen the use of wine tonics as beverages; may be materially influenced by recent action taken by the San Bernardino Board of Supervisors.

By the spoonful rather than by the pint will future Ontario wine tonic addicts assimilate their invigorating beverages. The Italian Vignati Company and Garrett & Company, grape products manufacturing plants, were last week awaiting official Federal formulas; were preparing to manufacture the "gooey" strengthening-liquids, to be "thick as syrup"; to be unpalatable for beverage purposes. Just as strong but nowhere near as tasty will be new tonics he, declared company officials.

Colton city officials last week declared that they had been the forerunners of the anti-wine tonic campaign, but that a partial prohibition of the sale of bitters nearly a year ago. Not much came of the action taken at that time but renewed vigor are Colton citizens, churches, organizations.

The Colton City Council refused to take action until the return of City Attorney P. N. McCloskey from the Oakland convention of the League of California Municipalities. (News Review, Oct. 14-20.) Upon his arrival last week, he was to be authorized to draw up an ordinance; despite arguments that his capacity as legal representative of a German bitters company might unfairly influence his action.

### Eternally Vigilant

During the eleven years which have elapsed since the passage of the Eighteenth Amendment, discussion has been rampant concerning the legality of the statute, its practicability, its enforcement, its

possible revision, other angles.

Last week Women's Christian Temperance Union President Mrs. Ella A. Boole denied the oft-repeated charge that "prohibition was put over on the American people." In addressing the 47th convention of the California division, meeting in San Diego last week, she denied that "prohibition was put over by the American people."

She continued: "The work is not finished, however. No great cause was ever won by inactivity and the W. C. T. U., with constant vigilance, is in the midst of a battle to win. The Eighteenth Amendment in the Constitution to stay. Women helped win the battle and we are calling upon the men of America to help us enforce the victory."

The convention's principal speaker at the Los Angeles district Attorney Buron Pitts. His subject: "Can a Democracy Enforce Its Laws?"

Despite its interest in other problems, the California State W.C.T.U. last week resolved to concentrate on the question of prohibition, law observance, and education; to permit specialized organization to work on lesser issues.

Resolutions were passed condemning military training for boys of high school and college age; and alcoholic preparations further denouncing radio advertising of cigarettes; again censuring billboard posters portraying women and girls smoking.

Indorsed was the United States' entry into the World Court. Also upheld was the W.C.T.U.'s "back-the-President" policy.

No difficulties in the selection of officers presented themselves. Re-elected were all the officials, all of whom had already served from two to nineteen years. The executives again chosen and their previous terms of office: President, Mrs. Eva Wheeler, eight years; vice-president, Mrs. Laura McClurken, two years; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Anna Hall, four years; recording secretary, Mrs. Hattie Young, nineteen and one-half years; assistant recording secretary, Mrs. Elizabeth Warren, eight years; treasurer, Mrs. Bertha Brinker, two years.

## Dry Santa Rosalia

August Augustin Olachea, Governor of the southern district of Lower California, has favored and absorbed many a modern American idea since he took up his executive position at his capital city of La Paz. On first taking office from former Governor Amado Aguirre, he announced ambitious plans for his virgin agricultural lands, planned the purchase of modern American machinery, proposed to use American methods in aiding and encouraging farmers (News Review, Aug. 19-25).

Last week, in support of Mexico President Portes Gil's campaign against alcoholic drinks, August Augustin declared his district of Santa Rosalia (mining center) dry, announced that prohibition of alcoholic drinks (except beer) was in force.

Statements from Mexico's Ministry of Education Ezequel Padilla indicated that most of the districts of Mexico were in favor of prohibition. He plans demonstrations among his school children against alcohol.

Thirsty Southern Californians, investigating the occasional junctures across the Mexican line where, at American-owned "watering places" they would quench their thirst, last week wondered what affect the new prohibition measure would have upon northern Baja California, a resort, that resort owners would think, do.

## Labor

### Imperial Enigma

Matters of labor shortage seemed so serious last week to California Chamber of Commerce members that they carefully composed a letter pleading to a personage no less than President Hoover himself. Valley men consider the present shortage of labor situation in the Southwest extremely critical, due mostly to government deportation of alien (Mexican) workers. The letter to Hoover asked him to appoint a commission to investigate the labor conditions in the Southwest, for the purpose of determining relief measures.

Local business men of Colton are opposed to bringing in Filipino and Negro workers, even though these laborers. Business men favor Mexicans as a more desirous labor. The Colton Chamber of Commerce has asked the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Imperial Valley to cooperate with them in seeking Hoover Relief.

## Dam

While the dam project in San Diego last week Angeln victors in support of the dam had not received an order from the dam.

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